

Leticia, in her last interview in 1990, affirms that she feels satisfied with the work that has been done for she knows that massive knowledge has been given to the next generation and she is at ease because now the children know their history.

Many young people have come to participate in the performances with the simple idea of enjoying themselves thus from a cultural point of view the group is doing an enormous job, not only for the knowledge and art that it delivers, but as an entertainment and cultural formation.

Many other groups have been inspired with commercial aims and have imitated the group in certain aspects, for instance, as for their garments. But they have not reached the perfection nor the artistic level of the *Tu'u Hotu Iti* group. It is a great cultural movement that the group has generated on Rapa Nui.

(Paloma Huke is the daughter of the late Rapanui artist, Melchoir Huke. Born in Viña del Mar, Chile, she studied and teaches modern dance and ballet and is now enrolled in the anthropology program at the Universidad de Bolivariana in Santiago).

Correction:

A few glitches appeared in the article by Dr Irina Fedorova in our last issue. In her paper on Tominika's text, the Ramon Campbell reference should read: 1971, *La horencia musical de Rapanui*, Santiago de Chile.

On page 74 read 'productive', not 'predictive'.

In the Table,

11-15: should read 034 ʔ *** ʔ

31-34: should read 022¹

68-72 should read 'vai' not 'nai'

35-37, glyph 280: turtle, honu = turtle, honu(i) = noble

We regret the confusion. [*Rongorongo is hard to read!*]

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Laramie, Wyoming

A new University of Wyoming Art Museum exhibit opened in September: "Easter Island Modern Folk Art: Selections from the William T. Mulloy Collection". Items in the collection—both stone and wood—were given to Mulloy during his first trip to the island or were gifts acquired by his family when they lived there. Also on exhibit with the carvings are blown up images of petroglyphs based on the 'daubings' made by Robert Koll of Mexico who worked with Mulloy in 1974 and 1976. [The rubbings are on extended loan to the University Art Museum from the Easter Island Foundation.] The exhibit has been described as 'striking and artistic'.

Barcelona, Spain

An Easter Island *moai* that has been in the Chilean city of La Serena since 1950 was recently loaned to Italy for a museum exhibit, and then sent on to Spain for another

exhibition—'Arte y Cultura de los Mares del Sur'. The statue broke at the neck while being muscled into the cultural center of Catalonia, *La Caixa*. Mónica Bahamondez, conservator from the Centro Nacional de Conservación y Restauración, Angel Cabeza, archaeologist from the Consejo de Monumentos, plus the Director of the Dirección de Bibliotecas, Archivos y Museos flew to Spain to assess the damage. Witnesses stated that the crane lifting the statue bumped against the main door of the museum several times. The statue (Englert's number 659) weighs 3 tons and is 3.38 meters tall.

National TV of Chile originally was denied entrance into the museum to photograph the breakage. Mónica Bahamondez stated that the damage was "an archaeological disaster"; the Mayor of La Serena said it was a "great loss for the city's tourism"; the assistant conservator at La Serena's Archaeological Museum added that it has been standing next to the road to the airport and was "converted into a public latrine and target for stone-throwing and other acts of vandalism"; and archaeologist Claudio Cristino blamed it on the Consejo de Monumentos and the Dirección de Bibliotecas, Archivos y Museos who had permitted the loan and he also denigrated comments from Spain that claimed the statue was a "victim of the degenerative process". The Alcalde of Hanga Roa, Petero Edmunds, had approved of sending the statue to Spain but criticized the Spaniards for not calculating the risks; and museum conservator Branko Marinov of the Museo de Antofagasta said that pieces of the country's patrimony should stay in their place of origin and only replicas should be sent.

The statue was subsequently repaired with two steel anchors and special adhesives.

This incident received surprising coverage around the world with notice appearing, for example, in the *Canberra Times* which quoted a spokesman from the La Caixa Foundation, Mr. Albert Roura, as stating that "...the piece had been exposed to pollution and weather for 30 years while on display in Chile before going on tour."

La Serena, Chile

El Mercurio de Valparaíso for 14 October quoted the mayor of La Serena, Adriana Peñafiel, who stated that the city of La Serena will not return to Easter Island the *moai* that is now part of a museum show in Barcelona. It is, she said, part of the cultural and historical patrimony of La Serena and was presented to the city over 40 years ago by islanders. The statue was given to recognize the active role played by the ex-president of the Republic, Gabriel Gonzalez Videla, who was from that city, and as a means of improving connections between the island and the continent. Alcalde Petero Edmunds of Hanga Roa had publically requested the return of the statue to Easter Island.

Viña del Mar, Chile

In a bit of fall-out from the Barcelona incident, *El Mercurio de Santiago* for 3 October stated that the mayor of Viña denied that the Easter Island statue now standing before

the Fonck Museum is in poor condition. Mayor Jorge Santidañez said that the Fonck *moai* was treated with care and it may be moved to the inside of the museum. It has been reported that the Fonck *moai* was a gift of the Tepano family in the 1950s; the mayor at that time, a Sr. Tepano, gave it to Viña del Mar from his private property.

The *moai* was moved to its present location in 1989, where it now stands in the front yard of the Fonck museum, handsomely displayed. It previously was located in front of the hotel Mirador next to a busy highway. The moving process brought traffic to a standstill as it was maneuvered slowly (2 miles an hour) on a flatbed truck, in standing position.

Santiago de Chile

A law to assure exclusive ownership of lands on Easter Island to those who are integrated into Rapanui ethnicity was approved in general by the commission of the Senate. The proposed motion exempts islanders from the norms established in the "Indigenous Law", Articles 66 and 69. Currently, island property is owned by the Chilean government and this has served as a safeguard so that the sale of real estate to non-ethnic persons is prohibited. With the proposed law, part of this land will be delivered to and worked by the islanders themselves to avoid situations such as has occurred in Papeete where Tahitians who wish to remain on the land where they were born have to rent land from persons of other nationalities. Alberto Hotus attended the meeting and, participating via telephone, were Governor Hey and Alcalde Edmunds.

The senators noted that the current law recognizes that the land is a fundamental principle of the existence and culture of the Rapanui community. In Article 66, the norm is established as to whom should be considered Rapanui, taking into account spouses of indigenous people. In sum, the proposed initiative is to modify laws in reference to Rapanui ethnicity and land ownership.

- Easter Island and Juan Fernández Islands have been nominated for the status of 'patrimony of the world', according to *El Mercurio* for October 30th. The natural park of Easter Island and the Archipelago of Juan Fernández both have been nominated by UNESCO for their 'List of World Patrimony'. Education Minister Sergio Molina, who was in France when that agreement was announced, expressed his satisfaction before a forum of ministers meeting in Paris during the 28th General Conference of UNESCO. Voting is to take place in December of this year.

Minister Molina stated that sustainable economic development with equity requires the 'fortification of modern civilization and plain respect for human rights'. He added that Chile gives "the highest priority to education for democracy. And this is not a purely rhetorical question for a country that has passed through a long period of internal conflict and which looks for an authentic and generous national reconciliation."

Earlier he underlined the necessity for UNESCO to give maximum priority to the study of cultural and ethical repercussions of new communication technologies, not

forgetting the traditional means of information and communication like reading and books.



A homesick Rapanui serenades the moai standing before the Fonck Museum in Viña del Mar, Chile.

From Rapa Nui, correspondent Helmut Kauffmann reported that island authorities, aware of the UNESCO nomination, appeared to be satisfied with this recognition but the president of the Consejo de Ancianos expressed reservations as to its usefulness to the island. In *El Mercurio de Valparaíso* (Nov. 13, 1995) a news item reported that the communities of Easter Island and the Juan Fernandez archipelago, headed by former mayor Alberto Hotus, will join forces to prevent their territories from being declared 'natural and cultural patrimonies of humanity' by UNESCO. They will present to Congress a motion to revoke the measure.

Intendente Hardy Knittel stated that the UNESCO decision has a 'double significance' and he "... worries that the nomination could slow down the normal process of development of the island". Knittel also participated in a ceremony on the island that marked the beginning of the paving of the 18 km road from Hanga Roa to Ana Kena [at a cost of more than \$5.7 million US dollars] and improvements to the Mataverí airport runway [\$5.5 million US dollars]. During his stay other projects were analyzed, including cleaning up the shoreline and restoring several *ahu* and ceremonial centers. He also arranged for the enlarging and remodeling of the island school at a cost of \$600,000 US dollars, to be funded by the National Fund of Regional Development.

WHAT'S NEW IN POLYNESIA

Tahiti

According to the *Pacific News Bulletin* Vol.10 (10) for October 1995, Tahiti is sitting on a time bomb. Citing an unemployment rate of 80% for Tahitian youth, they note that there is anger over the French education system that has little relevance to their culture, lifestyle, or values. The riots that occurred as a result of the resumption of nuclear testing by President Chirac are a result of frustration and anger over French rule. Three days after the riots in Papeete, French police launched an assault on the Trade union and independence movements.

Le Monde reported that a 1980 French military report detailed extensive cracks in the structure of Moruroa and expressed concern of a possible 'major ecological catastrophe'. The French defense ministry called the media report trivial and whimsical.

Kanaka Maoli groups working for Hawaiian sovereignty have joined forces with trade unions, church groups and others to protest the French tests. The city council of Manila, Philippines, voted to ban French officials and products from the city. A call for a boycott of French products was made in newspaper advertisements in Suva, Fiji. And Greenpeace has started legal action, trying to recover its vessels seized by the French. They also will seek 1 million dollars in damages.

New Zealand

The Queen of England signed the Waikato Raupatu Claims Settlement Bill and apologized to the Tainui people for the actions of British colonists 132 years ago. The British press expressed various opinions including one that commented upon the absurdity of apologizing for such historic events. Another paper noted that Ireland's leader of the Opposition has now demanded that Britain apologize for the potato famine of 150 years ago and Britons of Anglo-Saxon stock should apologize to the Welsh. Other comments described the Queen's action as 'bizarre', produced by a mood of self-hating guilt that is gnawing away at Australasia. The *Daily Telegraph* suggested that the apology would tempt fate: "The gesture will almost certainly tempt the wronged to demand more...." But *The Times* preferred to see the gesture as an effort to right the mistakes of last century and an example of 'Anglo-Saxon virtues'. *New Zealand Herald*, 6 November 1995.

WHAT'S NEW IN HANGA ROA

• Everything is up-to-date in Hanga Roa. A store on Policarpo Toro Street, *Kai Nene*, carries dog food, real coffee (from Haiti), herb tea, cereals, U.S. toothpaste, and Tecate beer! Next to Lan-Chile offices on the same street is *Cafeteria Mac Puku Haka Ka'i*: one of their specialties is iced coffee with ice cream. And photo processing is now available on the island at *Uka Riva*. No longer must one wait until returning home to see if your shots came out OK.

- The *moai* at Vinapu that was vandalized last spring and then repaired in August by a professional conservator (see *RNJ* 9:3), has been vandalized again. This time, the vandal reworked one of the depressions in an eye and scratched a 'tear-drop' shape below it.



Alcalde Petero Edmunds' recent pronouncement against UNESCO triggered this cartoon. The caption reads: 'Hurt and surprised by the attitude demonstrated by government authorities who signed an agreement to declare Easter Island a cultural patrimony of humanity, the mayor stated that the nomination is an attack against development of the island.' Cartoon by Edo, El Mercurio, 17 November 1995

- World Monuments Fund Sponsors French Mission to Help in the Preservation of Orongo

During the week of November 12th, MM. Vouvé and Clement, Professors at the Université de Bordeaux I, were on a technical mission at Orongo.

The mission originated due to the concern voiced by Dr. Lee on her return from the Conservation Assessment Project 1995 carried out this past July (*RNJ* 9(3):91-92). At the request of the Mayor, Don Petero Edmunds Paoa, the Consejo de Nacionales and CONAF, World Monuments Fund sponsored the week-long visit of these French experts, to study the stability problems of this site.

Prof. Vouvé, a hydrogeologist who has been active in the study of the preservation of the Lascaux caves in his native France, has been several times on the island as advisor to the Centro Nacional de Conservación y Restauración in the year-long project on the stability of the Ana Kai Tangata cave. He participated in the International Meeting on "Lavias and Volcanic Tuffs" having obtained second prize in that Competition. His colleague, Prof. Clement, is the Director of the Laboratoire de Mécanique des Roches at the Bordeaux

University, visited the island for the first time.

During their mission they were accompanied by Prof. Marchetti, Director of the Department de Ciencias de la Construcción from the Universidad de Chile. On the island they received the collaboration of Mr. Claudio Cristino, and José Miguel Ramírez, head of the Rapa Nui National Park, CONAF.

Their preliminary report indicates that the instability of the Orongo site is real and they have suggested several preventive measures. Following these, CONAF has restricted access to the areas in question: the sacred precinct of Mata Ngarau and the terrace beyond it. These measures will be kept until the site has been stabilized and adequate paths been provided for the safety of tourists and the preservation of the site.

A. Elena Charola, WMF Easter Island Program Consultant,
Great Neck, Long Island, November 24th, 1995.

• Toxic Substances Unloaded on Easter Island

Congressman Carlos Cantero said that toxic materials are being unloaded at Anakena beach. The directors of the Consejo of Ancianos informed him that Brotec S.A., the company repairing the airport runway, had authority to unload only heavy equipment there, and the port of Hanga Piko was to be used for toxic material. However, they say, the Minister of Defense gave a counterorder authorizing that everything could be unloaded on the dock at Anakena. The Consejo contacted Greenpeace who has sent a representative to stop the unloading, and they also contacted Codeff (Corporación de Defensa de la Flora y Fauna) who will lend assistance.

The new resolution authorizes beaching and tying up a barge at Anakena beach to unload equipment, cement and asphalt.

El Mercurio de Valparaiso, 23 and 27 November

- Six students of the Workshop of Communication and Journalism at the school 'Lorenzo Baeza Vega' won first prize in a regional contest with the theme "Esperanza, sueño de los jóvenes despiertos" [Hope, dream of the wide-awake youth]. In it they describe life on the island and imagine what an ideal school would be like. It was a national contest. The prize: a round trip to Santiago for the six.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

✉ Dear Editor:

It was interesting to read in your most recent issue (Vol. 9:3) about Pavel's experiments in moving the *moai* (we all would like to know exactly how they were moved). It is disturbing, however, to see experiments continuing to be carried out using actual archaeological artifacts, rather than models. In light of the recent damage to the *moai* from La Serena, which was broken while being transported for a museum exhibit in Barcelona, there should be some restrictions designed to prevent this type of accident from occurring in the future.

Experiments began on moving actual *moai* in 1955 with

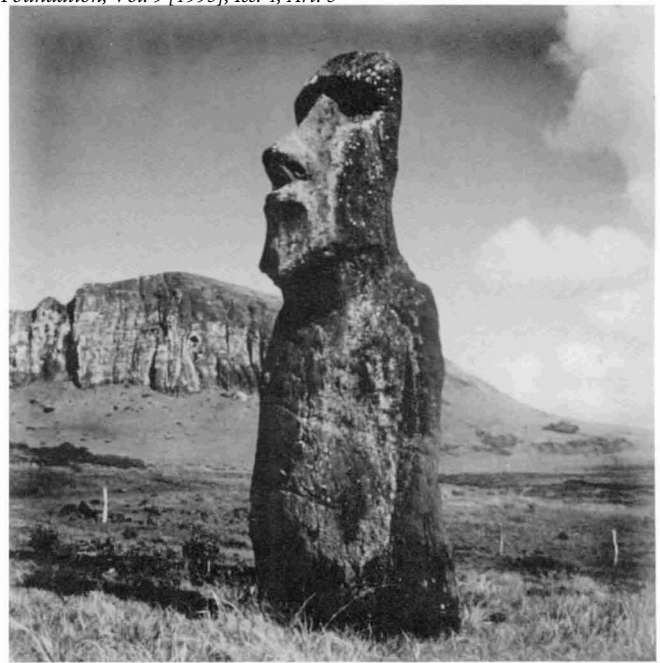


Fig. 1: The statue at Tongariki that was 'swivelled' and moved by Heyerdahl. Today it stands unstabilized

islanders, under the direction of Thor Heyerdahl, dragging a *moai* on a wood sledge at Anakena to determine how many people would be needed to move a statue (Heyerdahl and Ferdon, 1991:pl.60b; pg. 371; see also Heyerdahl 1958, facing page 289). In 1986, as Pavel mentioned, Heyerdahl once again experimented with moving a "discarded" *moai* in Hanga Roa (this *moai* now resides at the R. P. Sebastian Englert Museum on the island). The statue, weighing approximately 4 to 5 tons, was moved some five meters by swiveling and twisting it by means of ropes fastened to the head and base so that it "walked". Heyerdahl *et al.* (1989:60) state: "At first it proved extremely difficult to twist the image forward because the two teams pulling did not properly coordinate the exact movements of their respective jerks. The forward-twisting team had to delay their effort until the sideways pulling team had tilted the image on edge. . . . At this very moment the forward-twisting team had to jerk before the image fell back on its broad base." Although the participants were pleased with the success of these experiments as they did not cause damage to the *moai*'s base (which had a modern cement base added to it long before the experiment), some of the stresses (jerking) created by this experiment may have caused the statue to weaken and break at the neck when, later on, it was moved to the Museum. It was subsequently repaired.

A *moai* presently located near Tongariki which made a trip to Japan for an exhibition and fortunately was returned safely in 1983 (Figure 1), was used for additional experiments by Heyerdahl (1989:62). It was moved by tilting and twisting it with ropes. Moved from its former stabilized position, it now stands unsupported. A photograph taken shortly afterward (see Figure 2) shows a large chunk broken from the base, a result of this experiment.